

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01268 081608Z

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8376

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 348

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1268R

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, BC, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT THE THIRTY-FIRST UNGA

REF: A) SEOUL 5106; B) GABORONE 1210; C) SEOUL 4589;
D) SEOUL 4354; E) GABORONE 1034; F) GABORONE 0915

1. REGARDING TIMING OF KOREAN MISSION TO BOTSWANA DISCUSSED REF (A), AS INDICATED REF (B), BOTSWANA PRESIDENT AND HIS SENIOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PRESIDENTIAL STAFF WILL BE ABSENT FROM BOTSWANA IN PRC, DPRK AND AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT FROM JULY 24TH THROUGH EARLY AUGUST. PRIOR TO THAT TIME WE UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT WILL BE MAINLY OUT OF THE CAPITAL TOURING FOR THE UNIVERSITY FUND RAISING PROGRAM. KOREAN DELEGATION SHOULD SEEK TO ARRIVE HERE PRIOR TO JULY 24TH AND WITH ENOUGH ADVANCE WARNING TO PROVIDE SOME CHANCE FOR MEETING PRESIDENT, EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT MISSION COULD SEE HIM, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE ABLE SEE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MOGWE, AT LEAST, BEFORE 24TH.

2. AS REGARDS ROK QUESTION PARA 3, REF (C), REGARDING ROK BUDGETARY CONCERNS AND BOTSWANA'S UNGA VOTE, WE CAN ONLY JUDGE THAT SINCE ROK SENDS EMMISSARIES FROM TIME TO TIME TO
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01268 081608Z

LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND THE COST OF TRAVEL TO BOTSWANA IS SEEM-

ONLY MINIMAL AND SHOULD NOT HAVE DRAMATIC EFFECT ON ROK TRAVEL BUDGET. WE ALSO NOTE THAT PER PARA 6, REF (E), ROK COUNSELOR NAIROBI PARK REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT MOGWE HAD SAID TO NORTH KOREANS THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE DECISIONS ON KOREAN QUESTION UNTIL HE HEARD SOUTH KOREAN SIDE OF THE STORY. ALSO PARA 3 REF (F), SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE TOLD DCM PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING. IN PARA 5, TIBONE ALSO NOTED ABSENCE OF SOUTH KOREANS AND WONDERED IF THEY HAD GIVEN UP ON BOTSWANA IN WHICH CASE THIS WOULD HAVE AN "INFLUENCE ON BOTSWANA'S CONSIDERATIONS".

3. IT SEEMS TO US THAT, IN ANY EVENT, IF SOUTH KOREANS HAVE WRITTEN OFF BOTSWANA, WE SHOULD BE SO INFORMED SO THAT WE CAN SAVE OUR MULTILATERAL "CHIPS" FOR ISSUES UPON WHICH ALL CONCERNED HAVE AGREED TO HOPE OF SUCCESS.

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